Economic cooperation with other countries has been the constant endeavour of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with other countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the European Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becoming an important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

3190. Dr. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA;

SHRI GORDHAN BHAI JAVIA

SHRI VIJAY PATEL:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government to rehabilitate the textile workers who rendered jobless due to closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat seeking assistance of the NIFT to make suitable arrangements for training the jobless textile workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Textile Policy 1985, inter-alia while holding that there might be no alternative but to close down those textile units which had no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, also stressed that, the interests of the labour force, in the event of permanent closure of such units, would be fully safeguarded. Accordingly, the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) had been formulated. The TWRFS came into force with effect from the 15th September 1986. The objective of the TWRFS is to give an interim relief to the mill workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of the mills. Relief under the scheme is available only for 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year.

(b) to (d) A proposal was made by Gandhi Labour Institute Ahmedabad to train a batch of workers in Garment Manufacturing at NIFT centre, Gandhinagar. It was suggested to fund this from National Renewal Fund. The scheme envisaged a course leading to skill formation and capabilities to operate in tiny sector a Readymade Garment unit. The proposal could not be considered as the funding was not available. It was also found that such training would be costly and involve expenditure of more than Rs. 20000/- per trainee.

[Translation]

Retraining of Employees

3191. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements for retraining of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and location of the States where such arrangements have been made; and

(d) the names of nodal agencies of the State Government which have been included in this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund was set up by the Government in February, 1992, to provide a social safety net for workers affected by industrial restructuring, technology upgradation and modernisation of Indian Industry. It, inter-alia, envisages assistance for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers. 13 nodal agencies have been approved for implementing this scheme in 49 locations in 16 states. Details of the nodal agencies and the locations is given as statement. Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad is the State Government Agency included in this scheme.

STATEMENT

Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) set up under NRF

Sl. No.	Name of the Nodal Agency	Location
1	2	3
1.	M.P. Consultancy Organisation, T.T. Nagar, Bhopal.	1. Napanagar (M.P.) 2. Bhopal (M.P.) 3. Korba (M.P.)
2.	Institute of Labour Development, Station Road, Jaipur.	4. Beawar (Raj.) 5. Kota (Raj.)